

USDA Rural Development Meeting (3-20-19)

Present: George Krivda, Dan Jerram, Bud Butler, Christine Hayward

Opening Statements:

George Krivda, State Director (Ct, RI, MA) United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development - Reports to Asst. Administrator USDA RD (Joel Baxley) Regional Program Director - Jennifer Lerch (not present) reports to George.

USDA-RD insures that rural areas don't fall into economic decline*

* RD Programs – “Encompassing the objectives of economic development, growth, stabilization, increasing rural prosperity, fairness, helping people below the poverty line”

TOWN OVERVIEW TO GEORGE –

Reviewed Objectives of AET, Deliverables – Our Plan For Asset Proceeds

Wants to see the following in our proposal: (Not in order of importance) – Turn Everything Back Into The System.

Krivda Reaction:

“SOUNDS LIKE NEW HARTFORD HAS INCORPORATED THE GOALS OF WASHINGTON INTO ITS PLAN.”

What Does USDA-RD want us to emphasize in our request for relief:

- (1) Make forgiveness of Grant a cornerstone - this act will allow us to continue the program begun in 2004.
- (2) Concise reference of expansion plan and its goals - path to stability, aquifer protection, Protect Wild & Scenic Farmington River, rate stabilization, etc.
- (3) All of Aquarion proceeds going back into the systems -show allocations, specific rates relative to current (highest in state) to what we see as projected rates.
- (4) Emphasize value of early USDA payback on the principal amount of loans.
- (5) Aquarion not profiteering from transaction. They have regulated rates.
- (6) Be sure to reference (as a result of the high rates): declining usage, high vacancy rates, usage avoidance, and loss of pricing increases as a tool to garner more revenues.
- (7) Emphasis on where we are going to put the money.

George will gladly come back to preview our response for submittal to WDC.